A PUBLICATION FROM
THE AUSTRALIAN TIMBER FLOORING ASSOCIATION
ISSUE 2 SPRING 2007

TIMBER FLOORS

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ATFA CONFERENCE ISSUE

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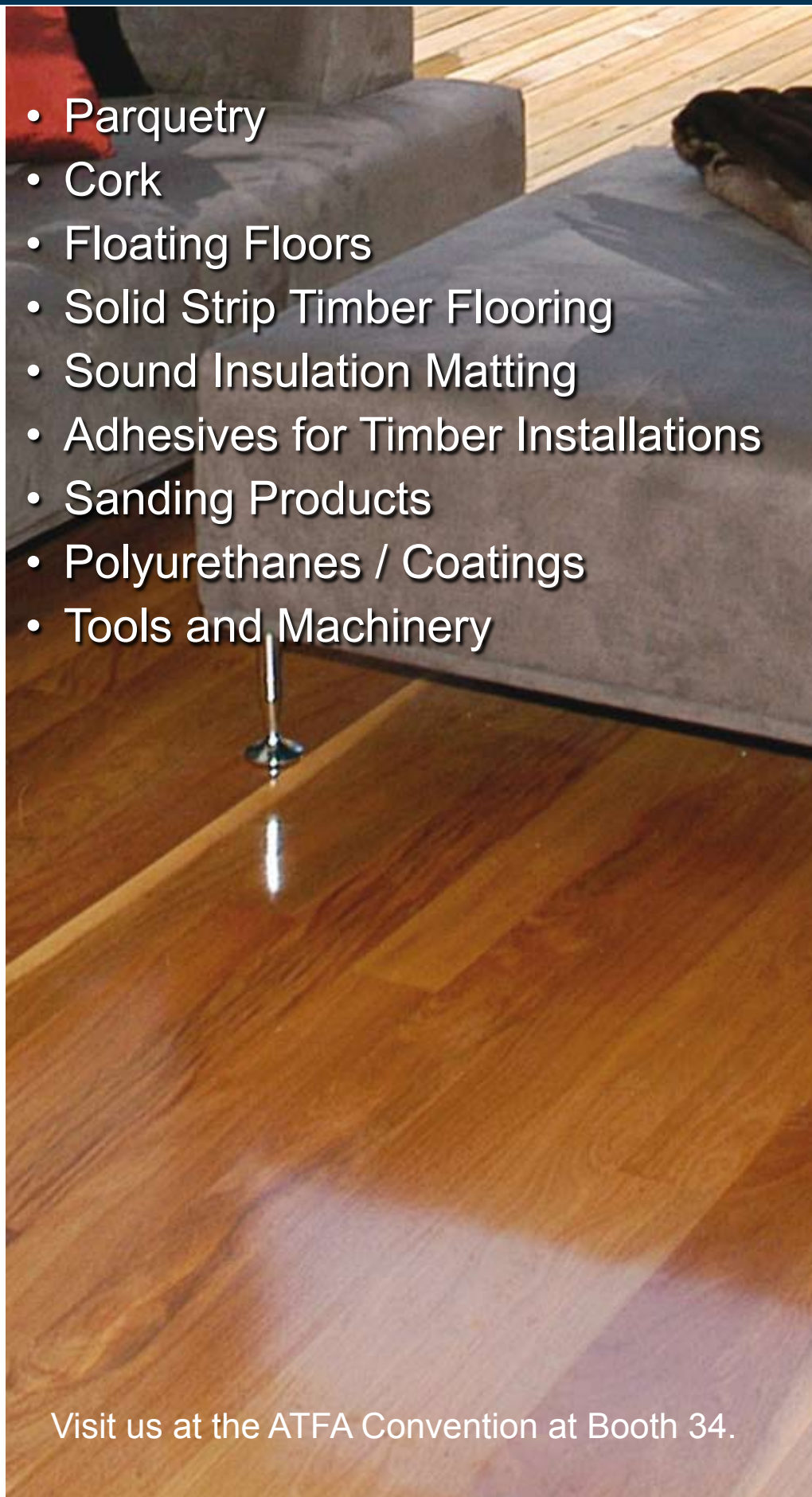
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Note from the CEO

The Australian Timber Flooring Association (ATFA) welcomes you to the second issue of *Timber Floors*. We've received excellent feedback on the launch issue and will continue to work on developing this into a world class publication.

Receiving *Timber Floors* is one of the benefits of ATFA membership. If you are not a member but have received this issue then you are in for a treat, but you'll need to join to continue receiving this industry publication. Enclosed is the ATFA membership application form.

This issue focuses on our major annual event, The Australian Timber Flooring Association Education Conference and Timber Flooring Exhibition. We call it the convention, and this year's, in Sydney, will be the biggest we have ever witnessed in Australia. In addition to more exhibitors than ever before, we combine the first ever industry conference, an official dinner and our own national awards. See pages 8 through to 13 for details on the convention.

Timber Floors will not only keep you abreast of products, services and events, it will also provide you with an opportunity to debate some of the bigger issues facing our industry today. It will cover topics such as timber resources, flooring production techniques, defective floors, installation tips and quality issues as well as coating production method advantages and disadvantages.

We believe *Timber Floors* is the foundation for a strong system of communication across the industry and we look forward to your involvement. We trust you will enjoy this issue and welcome any feedback you may have.

Randy Flierman, CEO
Australian Timber Flooring Association

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Cover image:
Messmate flooring

ATFA news update

David Hayward joins the ATFA team on a permanent basis to provide ATFA with a strong technical and training base. David has spent the past 14 years with Timber Queensland and TRADAC and had a long association with the timber industry before that. He has also been involved in both past and present timber flooring research projects by the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation. He supports flooring producers on product quality matters and is active in the marketplace, assessing and providing assistance with timber flooring issues.

Catherine Sultana is ATFA's first female board member. Cathy has over 30 years' experience in retail having worked in management roles for Myer and David Jones after owning her own soft furnishing business. She is currently Business Development Manager for ATFA member MYM Timber and Hardware in Melbourne. Cathy is an asset to the board with previous board positions including Australian Retailers Association, City Centre Executive for the City of Melbourne, Melbourne Convention and Marketing Bureau and the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Kids.

Joe Potter is Commercial Market Manager for Orica Woodcare and the newest addition to the ATFA board. Based in Brisbane, Joe brings to ATFA over ten years' experience in the coating business, having joined Orica in 1997. At Orica, he has been involved with setting coating specification standards and is a leader of innovation and development of sustainable timber coatings for the flooring industry. An advocate for industry self-regulation and channel development, Joe is keen to develop ways to assist the industry to grow its share of the total available flooring market. *f*

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Boral Timber Flooring

THE NATURAL SELECTION

BORAL

Member profile: Oakdale Industries

Oakdale Industries is the manufacturer of some of the finest Tasmanian timber flooring products available on the market today.

The company was established in the early '70s to provide supported employment opportunities for people within our disabled community.

Oakdale Industries' product range has expanded to include tongue and groove strip flooring, overlay flooring and parquetry flooring, mouldings, architraves, skirting and door jambs (which complement the fine Tasmanian timber species flooring range) as well as craft products, garden products and furniture products.

The company provides good positive skills development for employees, not just in timber manufacturing, but also in the development of other life skills.

Oakdale is committed to the environment and the sustainability of Tasmanian resources, sourcing its raw materials from companies with the same commitment.

Oakdale Industries produces product from a number of species, using the warmth of Tasmanian Oak, the rare beauty of the Black Heart Sassafras and Huon Pine, and the exquisite colours that make the Tasmanian Myrtle and Tasmanian Blackwood species. Oakdale also has access to many other species from within its global supplier network.

Contact Oakdale on 03 6244 2277. *f*

Pictured here, (L to R) John Hollis, Terry Mason and Rock Fullard with Oakdale flooring packs.

Timber Flooring Association 2007 Convention in Sydney, stand 5

the mountain range

The Mountain Range is a new palette of species in Boral Timber's range of solid hardwood flooring products designed to meet the growing trend for lighter timber species and open plan living spaces.

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Boral Timber Flooring

THE NATURAL SELECTION

BORAL

Species feature: Jarrah

Jarrah is grown in the south western corner of Western Australia, and is one of the most common Eucalyptus species in that state, as well as one of its few commercial species. Its botanical name is Eucalyptus marginata, which refers to the light coloured vein on the edge of the leaf.

A large hardwood, Jarrah grows up to 40 metres in height, with a trunk up to three metres in diameter. It has a rough, brown to black bark, which splits into fibrous strips, and fine, narrow leaves. Jarrah is an extremely deep-rooted species, and therefore drought resistant, as it is able to draw extensively for water during dry periods.

The heartwood is durable (class 2) and dark red in colour, often with a rich dark mahogany hue. The sapwood is a paler yellow colour. The grain, with an even and moderately coarse texture, is usually straight, but can be interlocked and wavy, occasionally producing an attractive fiddleback figure.

Jarrah's colouring and exceptional hardness (janka 8.5) are a perfect combination for commercial and residential flooring. It is also popular in general construction, sleepers, poles, piles, panelling, joinery and heavy furniture. *f*

Jarrah is renowned world wide for its density, resistance to insect attack and beautiful rich red colour, which deepens over time into a soft burgundy.

This hand cut parquetry panel featuring Jarrah is in the foyer of ATFA member, MYM Timber and Hardware in Melbourne.

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ATFA 2007 Education Conference and Timber Flooring Exhibition

The 2007 ATFA Convention is the only dedicated, large scale timber flooring event in Australasia and will include the following activities.

- An Education Conference featuring leaders in the timber flooring industry from the USA and Australia. The conference will provide all timber flooring professionals with the knowledge and skills to help increase your marketability in an extremely competitive market.

- An industry exhibition which will showcase the latest innovations in timber floors, sanding machines, sealants, coatings, adhesives, tools, safety equipment, floating floors, underlays, abrasives, levelling compounds and much more, to the most qualified and enthusiastic gathering of the timber flooring industry.
- A golf day which will be hosted by ATFA to kick off the 2007 Convention on Wednesday 10 October. This will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues in the industry, so plan to bring your clubs along and get into the thick of it at the Moore Park Golf Course.
- The Australian Timber Flooring Association Annual General Meeting to be held on the evening of Wednesday 10 October which is open to all members of ATFA.
- The 2007 Convention cocktail reception which will be held at the Coogee Bay Hotel following the AGM.
- The 2007 ATFA Convention Dinner and Annual Awards Presentation to be held on the evening of Friday 12 October at the Star Room, Darling Harbour. *f*

SYDNEY CONVENTION 2007

ATFA

AUSTRALIAN TIMBER FLOORING ASSOCIATION

Convention at a glance

Australian Timber Flooring Association AGM
10 October 2007, Coogee Bay Hotel

National Education Conference
11 and 12 October, 2007: 8 am – 12 noon

Timber Flooring Exhibition
11 October 2007 - 12 noon - 5pm
12 October 2007 - 12 noon - 4pm

Pavilion Convention Centre
Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney, NSW

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Golf day

Join us for 9 holes of golf at the Moore Park 18-hole Group One Championship Golf Course. A shuttle bus will depart the Crowne Plaza at 10am on Wed 10 Oct. This is an opportunity to network with other keen golfers in the timber flooring industry. Tickets are $55, club hire additional.

Cocktails

The 2007 ATFA Convention Cocktail Reception will be held following the ATFA AGM on Wed 10 Oct. The Cocktail Reception will run from 6.00 pm until 7.30 pm at the Coogee Bay Hotel. Attendance at the Cocktail Reception is included in all two day Conference Registration Fees. Additional tickets can be purchased at $45 per person.

Dinner

The Star Room at the IMAX Theatre Complex in Darling Harbour is our venue and cricket legend Mike Whitney is the host for the ATFA Dinner on Fri 12 Oct. The 2007 Australian Floor of the Year Awards will be announced as well as the ATFA Annual Industry Awards. Tickets are $120 per person. Book as soon as possible.

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First conference is in great shape!

The inaugural National Timber Flooring Conference, which is being offered as part of the 2007 ATFA Convention is shaping up very well.

The Conference, which will take place on the morning of Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October, has brought together a "Who's Who" of leading timber floor industry specialists from throughout Australia and overseas.

"The industry has certainly responded well to the idea of a professional development conference," says Randy Flierman, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Timber Flooring Association.

"I think the interest stems from the fact that we've developed a program that meets the varying needs of the sectors within the timber flooring industry.

"And it's not just about developing the technical capacity of the industry. The Conference program also includes sections on business development and business presentation, both of which are critical to the long term success of our members.

"I strongly encourage anyone who is thinking of coming along to the conference to book soon as places are filling fast," Mr Flierman added.

"All people need to do is visit our website at www.atfaconvention.com.au and click on the conference link to see the full program and make a booking.

"They will find the conference is excellent value with a broad range of top quality speakers.

"Our major goal in putting this event on is to develop a more professional and committed timber flooring industry.

"We are absolutely certain this Conference will make a major contribution to the achievement of that goal."

Visit www.atfaconvention.com.au for program details

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International experts lead demonstration program

SYDNEY CONVENTION 2007
ATFA
AUSTRALIAN TIMBER FLOORING ASSOCIATION

International flooring expert Daniel Boone from the United States and specialists from Heinrich Koenig in Germany will offer technical demonstrations at this year's ATFA Convention.

The technical demonstrations are just one of the new initiatives to be offered at the Convention, aiming to develop the technical capacity of the timber flooring industry.

Daniel Boone has been responsible for the development and implementation of many of the National Certification Standards for NWFA where he served as the Technical Training Director for four years.

He is internationally renowned for his knowledge and skills in the manufacture, installation and finishing of hardwood flooring.

Daniel also has extensive experience in the technical aspects of product development including specification, design and raw and finished product testing.

Specialists from Heinrich Koenig in Germany will be conducting a range of demonstrations on timber flooring repair techniques including fixing fine and deep scratches, joint and pressure marks and cracked edges.

The attendance of these international experts at the ATFA convention is sponsored by Premium Floors. *f*

2007 conference sessions

Pavilion Convention Centre, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney

Thursday 11 October

8.00am	Delegate Registration, tea and coffee on arrival
8.25am	Welcome to delegates Robert Clague, President, ATFA
8.30am	AFTA – Progress and Plans for the Future Randy Flierman, Chief Executive Officer, ATFA
8.45am	Keynote Presentation: Timber - A Worldwide Perspective Christine Coates, Coates & Associates
9.30am	Panel Session: Regulating the Timber Flooring Industry Robert Clague - President, ATFA and Managing Director, Northern Suburbs Timber Flooring Steve Griffin - General Manager, Home Building Service, NSW Office of Fair Trading Randy Flierman - Chief Executive Officer, ATFA
10.15am	Morning tea
10.30am	Floating Floor Systems – Dos and Don'ts Kendall Waller, National Technical Manager, Premium Floors
11.15am	Dispute Resolution – Inspections/Liabilities Ray Brice, Managing Director, Australian Flooring Consultants
12.00noon	Close of conference sessions Exhibition opens
5.00pm	Exhibition Close – Day 1

Friday 12 October

8.00am	Delegate Registration
8.25am	Welcome to Day 2
8.30 am	Moisture and Timber Flooring Paul Kiely, Planet Timber WA Pty Limited
9.15am	Timber Flooring - Problems, Causes and Remedial Measures Dave Hayward, Technical Manager, ATFA
10.00am	Morning tea
10.15am	Training and Apprenticeships for the Flooring Industry Bob Paton, CEO, Manufacturing Skills Australia Patrick Cummings, Industry Coordinator, Manufacturing Skills Australia
11.00am	Thinking Big! Rob Hartnett, Managing Director, Business Performance International
11.50am	Acknowledgements and Conference Close
12.00noon	Exhibition Opens
4.00pm	Exhibition Closes
7.00pm	2007 ATFA Convention Dinner and Annual Awards Presentation Star Room Darling Harbour

Win a $6000 lucky door prize!

Anyone pre-registering and then attending this year's exhibition at the ATFA Convention will go into the draw to win a package of prizes worth over $6,000. Pre-registration is free.

The Exhibition component of the Convention runs from 12 noon on both Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October at the Pavilion Convention Centre. All you need to do to pre-register is to visit the ATFA Convention website at www.atfaconvention.com.au and follow the pre-registration prompts.

It is not essential to pre-register as you can register on the day when it is still free but pre-registering will save you time and give you the opportunity to win some great prizes.

When you collect your name badge at the Exhibition you will automatically go into the draw for a huge range of prizes.

The main prize includes a Cleancare Orbiter Floor Machine with vacuum valued at $3,200.

In addition, the winner of the lucky door prize will also take home more than $3,000 worth of products.

These include abrasive products from Hermes and Synteko, coating products from Eurothane Coatings and Mirotone, adhesive products from Bostik and Regupol, a $250 cash-back voucher from Lagler Australia, a floor clamp donated by Deckmax, furniture feet from Slipstick, woodfiller from Timbermate, a two year subscription to Flooring Magazine and a one year membership to ATFA.

All you need to do then is make sure you come along to the show on either 11 or 12 October and you could be going home with all these great prizes.

For further information contact GEMS on 02 9744 5252.

WIN WIN WIN WIN WIN! The main prize includes a Cleancare Orbiter Floor Machine with vacuum valued at $3,200 as well as another $3000 worth of prizes!

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Presentation of ATFA awards

This year's ATFA Awards will be presented at the ATFA Convention Gala Dinner under the following categories

- The Boral Australian Timber Floor of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- Employee of the Year
- Contractor of the Year

Former winners of the Australian Timber Floor of the Year including Northern Suburbs Timber Floors, Perth Timber Floors, Mariposa Hardwood Flooring and Proline Timber Floors have benefited significantly from promoting their success to clients and potential clients.

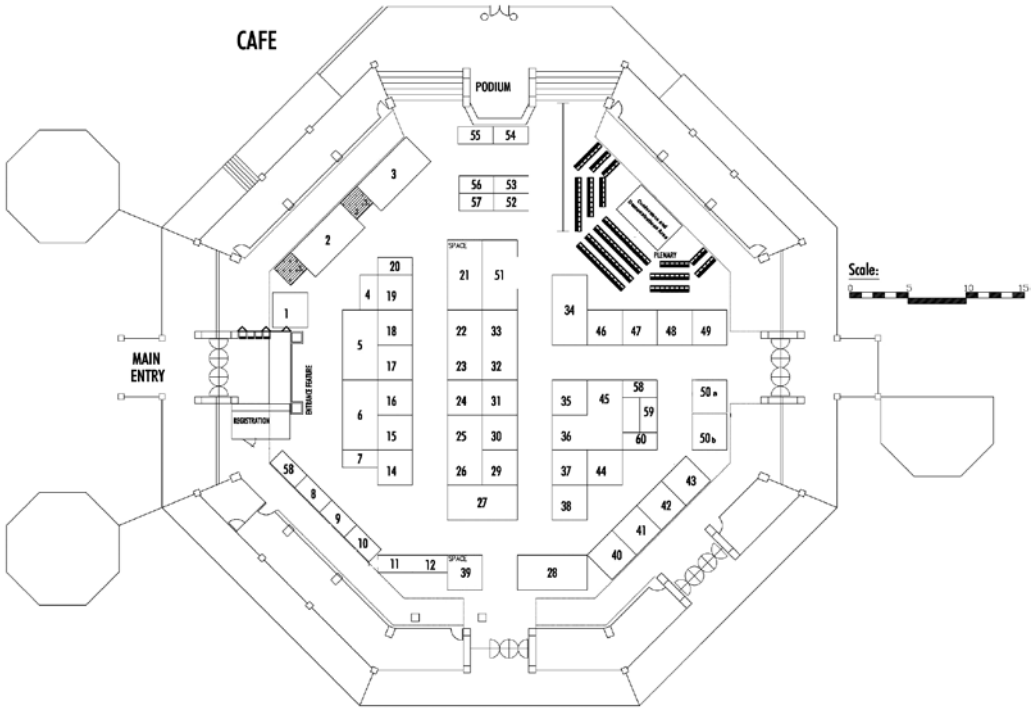
In addition to the ATFA Annual industry awards, the evening will host the presentation of 2007 Australian Floor of the Year Awards.

The Convention Dinner will be held at the Star Room on Friday 12 October at 7pm. The Star Room is located on the top floor of the IMAX Theatre Complex in Darling Harbour.

Come along and enjoy a night of fine food and wine with former cricketer Mike Whitney at a venue that is truly Sydney's "best kept secret".

For exhibitors and attendees who will be staying at the Crown Plaza Hotel Coogee Beach, there will be a coach shuttle from the hotel to Darling Harbour at 6.30pm and drop them off at Darling Harbour.

Guests will be required to organise their own transport back to the hotel at the conclusion of the Awards Dinner. *f*



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What do you expect?

Lack of education led to a list of problems

by Mark Brown, writing for Hardwood Floors Magazine USA

The problem

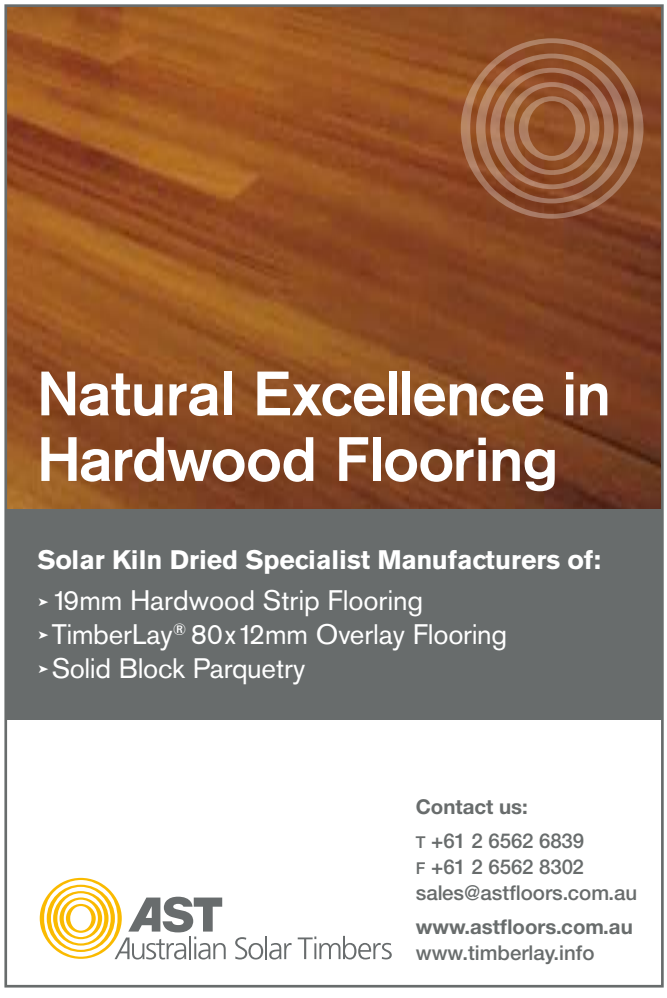
A call came in from a flooring contractor. One of his customers, Mr Park, had just called and was very upset about his hardwood floor. He bitterly complained that the flooring was changing colour, there were gaps all over the place, and the finish was rough. Mr Park was called to set up an appointment for an inspection. He said that the appointment could be set up on any day, but only after 3pm, when the afternoon sun made all of the problems really noticeable.

The procedure

The site-finished 57mm oak floor was installed in Mr Park's new home last July. It was now February. As in many new homes, there was very little furniture in the 190m^2 main floor of the home where the hardwood was installed. There were no curtains on the windows and only a couple of area rugs on the floor. Mr Park first pointed out that the floor seemed to be changing colour. When he moved one of the area rugs he could see the floor had darkened around the outside perimeter of the rug while retaining the original colour beneath the rug. He also stated he had begun to notice the development of gaps between individual flooring strips, a condition that had not been present when he first moved into the house. Finally, Mr Park directed me to the foyer so I could see where the light coming in from the French doors to the rear of the house was highlighting floor surface irregularities near the foyer walls. I was able to confirm that there had been some colour change between the outside perimeter of the area rugs and the area beneath them. The condition was noticeable but not excessive. Following the NOFMA inspection procedure, I marked spans of 20 flooring strips in a number of areas of the installation. In each area I measured the total width of the spans, width of individual strips, spaces between the strips and moisture content of each strip. I also took temperature and humidity readings. The moisture content of the flooring strips registered about 6 percent on my meter. The temperature was nearly 20 degrees Celsius and the relative humidity was 25 percent. The equilibrium moisture content at this temperature and humidity is only 5.4 percent, so the wood moisture content was probably even lower than my meter could accurately read. There were gaps found between the individual strips that ranged from 0.5mm to 1mm. Fasteners were found to be spaced at intervals of 150 to 200mm. To comply with Mr Park's request, I stood in the foyer and sighted down the wall into the family room. Just as he had said, there appeared to be some irregularity in the finish along the wall. When this area was examined, some minor edger marks could be seen close to the wall. The condition was not noticeable when viewed from a standing position in normal lighting.

The causes

Wood and finishes naturally change colour when exposed to light. When areas of the floor are not exposed to the same light conditions, they can reasonably be expected to be a slightly different colour. According to the flooring contractor, the flooring was between 6 and 9 percent moisture content when installed, nearly the exact moisture content as when it was received from the manufacturer. At the time of this inspection the relative humidity and the flooring moisture content was very low. Having lost up to 4 percent moisture



Having lost up to 4 percent moisture content since installation, it was not surprising that spaces had opened between the strips.

content since installation, it was not surprising that spaces had opened between the strips. Try as he might, the floor sander cannot guarantee a perfect result. As pointed out in the NOFMA finishing guidelines: "Sander marks can be an indication of inadequate finishing, but the finish can be acceptable and still include this and other problems provided they do not appear over the entire floor."

How to fix the floor

The discolouration seen around the perimeter of area rugs can be blended with other areas by exposing them to the same light. This can be done by occasionally moving the rugs or by installing window coverings to limit the amount of sunlight reaching the floor. The best way to address the gaps between the boards is to increase the humidity, which will increase the flooring moisture content, allowing the boards to swell slightly and close the gaps. To avoid seasonal gaps, it is advisable to limit swings in the humidity by using humidifiers in the heating season and dehumidifiers in non-heating months.

The edger marks seen were minor and could only be seen in the glare of reflected light. Surface irregularities should be evaluated from a standing position in normal lighting. It was determined that this condition required no action.

In the future

Mr Park did not have experience with hardwood flooring. The problems he was experiencing were attributable, primarily, to his lack of understanding of the product. The information in the inspection report was not unfamiliar to the contractor. To him, these were "common sense" issues. Together we created a basic hardwood floor facts letter for his future customers so they have more informed (and more reasonable) expectations.

Mark Brown is owner of Carpet Arts Inspection Service in Ellicott City, Maryland, USA.

Troubleshooting squeaky floors

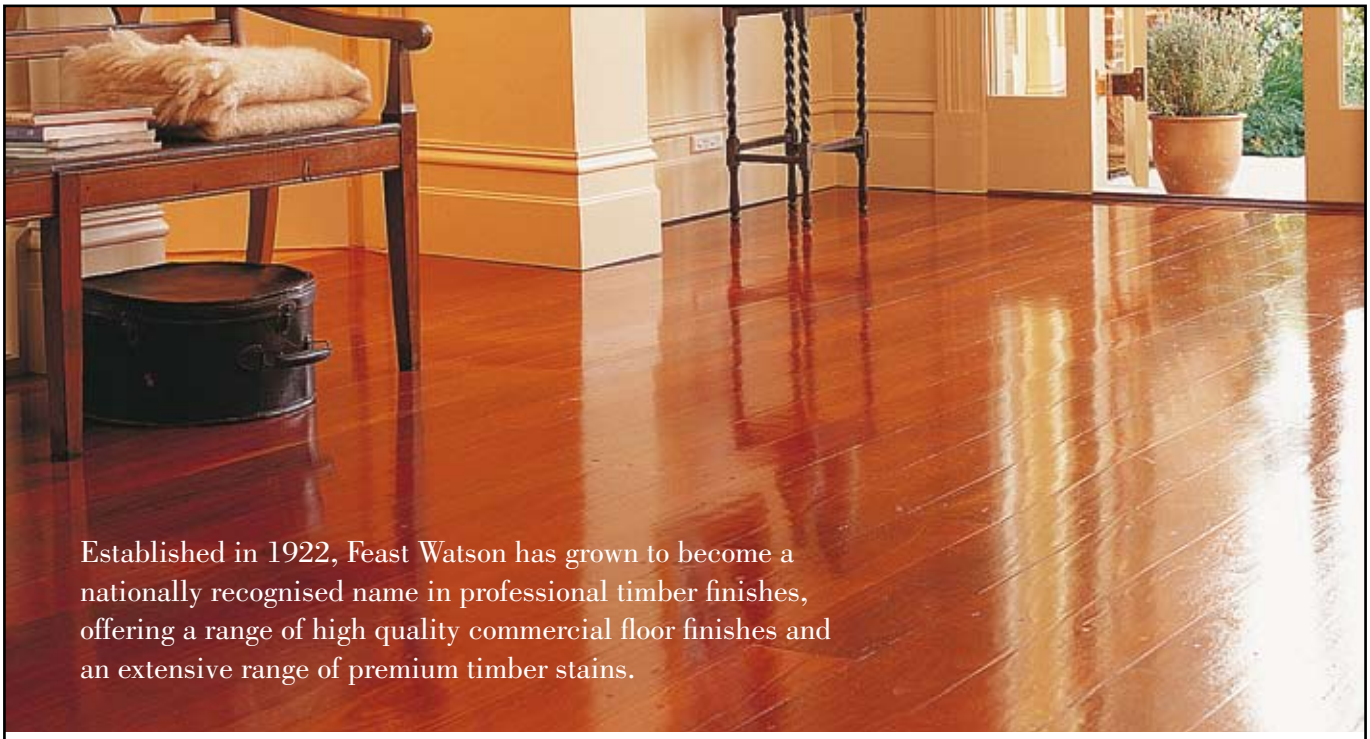
Squeaking floors is a common problem that can sometimes mean a time consuming call back to a job. Here, David Hayward, ATFA Technical Manager, discusses the problem, how to spot the issues and how to fix them.

For as long as there have been timber floors there have been squeaks and it is generally accepted that many floors will make some noise when walked on. However, there comes a point where this is a problem and a customer will complain. In solid strip floors on joists, squeaks can come about from board on board movement or board on nail movement. However there are also instances where the squeaks are not associated with the flooring itself but the subfloor framing of either timber or steel and even door joinery rubbing when foot pressure is applied to a floor. Excessive squeaking should not be taken lightly as the annoyance is a legitimate concern that owners have taken further.

What to look for

If a floor is being fixed directly to joists, board profile is particularly important. Generally a tongue and groove tolerance of 0.3 to 0.4 mm makes a good floor. This is about the thickness of a business card. Note that the tolerance on the end-match should be the same as board edges and is equally important. If shrinkage or movement has caused the floor to lose firm contact with the joists then board on nail (or often staple) movement can result in squeaking. Obviously this is more of an issue with secretly fixed floors as the fixing is no longer accessible. For these reasons, it is recommended not to secret fix into unseasoned joists.

Laying a floor over particleboard or plywood will not necessarily solve the problem. Some of these installations have also been associated with excessive squeaking. If the adhesive beneath the board is not providing sufficient support to the strip floor, movement at board edges can still result in squeaking. Similarly, squeaks associated with the plywood-to-joist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fixing will transfer when the floor is walked on. In some instances, fixing of plywood to steel joists has resulted in loud squeaking with every step made on the timber floor above.

What should have been done and what can be done?

Firstly, by simply assessing the flooring and job site many issues relating to squeaking can be overcome. New floors installed over old joists in renovations require particular attention as joists may have split and this can compromise new fixings. Joists may not be level with each other or adequately fixed. In such instances responsibility for the sub-floor needs to be determined and any issues resolved prior to installation of the new floor.

Floors will squeak more in dry weather when there is less friction holding board edges tight. A floor that squeaks prior to coating will often not squeak afterwards.

If you have a job with a squeaky floor it is first necessary to work out where the squeaks are coming from and whether it is your responsibility as the installer or that of the builder who installed the floor framing. Tricks such as putting talcum in board joints seldom work and something more substantial is generally needed. Fixing battens between joists to reduce board on board movement or filler at the joist to board interface can be effective. Similarly, drilling and injecting adhesive at end matched joints or pinning to prevent movement has been successful. However, some of these methods necessitate access to the lower surface of the floor. There are also instances where no matter what has been tried the squeaks persist. For this reason it is often best to try remedial work on a smaller area first and assess the improvement before proceeding further. *f*

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The Quick Step Incizo® and the Timber and laminate flooring repair kit are distributed by Premium Floors. Visit www.premiumfloors.com.au for your state branch.

Timber and laminate flooring repair kit

This convenient kit is manufactured in Europe and includes all the tools and waxes you need to repair chips and dings in timber and laminate flooring, especially when you need to match the correct flooring colour.

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Come and see demonstrations of the kits by our German manufacturer at the ATFA conference in October!

Whittle Waxes offers application accreditation courses

With floor sanders its key market, Whittle Waxes is investing an enormous amount of time and resources in supporting the flooring trade with accreditation training courses in product knowledge and application techniques.

The Whittle Waxes Accreditation Course offers an overview of the company's marketing thrust to end users, architects and timber merchants as well as an understanding of the company's business development.

Most importantly, the Whittle Waxes Accreditation Course covers the company's key products in detail including Treatex, exterior products, oils and waxes.

There is also a practical demonstration on staining and coating application techniques.

Accreditation is granted with the satisfactory completion of four floors and the signing of the Whittle Waxes code of conduct.

Once accredited, floor sanders and finishers can then benefit from referrals as a result of the many nationwide flooring enquiries received by Whittle Waxes from architects, builders and end users.

The team at Whittle Waxes has developed an Accreditation Course that is aimed at improving the financial bottom line of accredited flooring professionals.

There is also a DVD in the pipe line so that the training course can be offered to floor finishing companies in regional and remote areas.

Whittle Waxes specialises in sourcing, importing and distributing Hard Waxes from Europe. The brands Treatex and PNZ are exclusive to Whittle Waxes and the company also distributes Rubio Monocoat.

For details on the accreditation course please phone Whittle Waxes on 1300 ECO WAX or visit the website at www.whittlewaxes.com.au. *f*

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Sound reduction of timber floors on multi storey developments

ATFA member **Glyn Taylor** from Embelton Flooring discusses some recent changes to sound ratings and answers some frequently asked questions regarding sound isolation.

Under the current Building Codes of Australia most multi storey residential projects need to meet L, nw+Cl ←62. This is an on site test result indicating any impact sound travelling into the room below. The lower the test result the better the outcome.

The older FIIC rating tested the level of insulation. Under this rating, the higher the rating, the better. This has caused a lot of confusion in the market recently, but to clarify the situation, the older FIIC rating is no longer applicable.

Q. What is the difference in test results in general terms if 5mm rubber matting is installed correctly under timber compared to a standard timber to slab installation?

A. The general test result on a standard 150mm slab with the same type of ceiling will give a reduction around f 15 to 20 under the Lntw reference i.e. 45 to 50. In general terms a raw 150mm slab and timber will give an Lntw reading of +/- 65. This will not pass most specifications under the BCAs.

Q. Are all rubber matting manufacturers the same?

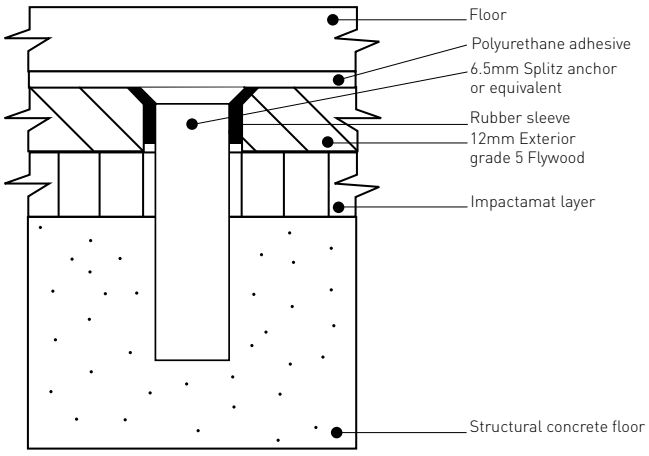
A. With regard to sound isolation or reduction, every installation is individual and to obtain the best possible outcome the site must be investigated by a specialist such as Embelton Flooring. The company has both a Registered Test Laboratory and a resident Acoustic Engineer. The correct type and thickness of matting can be produced for the job and other parts of the building design ie ceiling and walls, can be assessed and the correct treatment supplied.

Q. Can parquetry be laid on the same density of rubber matting as strip timber?

A. Parquetry must be laid on a higher density rubber. 900 Kg/m^3 is recommended. This product can be supplied in the Impactamat brand. If lower densities are used too much movement will follow and cause cracking and damage to the coating. Parquetry provides a better test result than strip flooring. This is because of reduced resonance of a smaller or shorter piece of timber.

Q. Does rubber matting need to be glued when used under floating floors?

A. No, 3mm rubber matting or cork rubber combination can be loose-laid under floating floors. The use of the standard 2mm foam layer is also recommended as it allows extra cushioning and flexibility.



Above: Isolated drive pin. Requires 10mm CSK hole through board.

ATFA calendar

10 October 2007
ATFA AGM

11 - 12 October 2007
ATFA Convention and Timber Flooring Exhibition,
Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney

November 2007
Timber Flooring Workshops
Sydney 6 Nov • Melbourne 7 Nov • Hobart 8 Nov
Adelaide 13 Nov • Perth 15 Nov

29 January - 1 February 2008
Surfaces, Las Vagas, USA

February 2008
Problems, Cures and Remedial Measures Workshop
Hobart 4 Feb • Melbourne 5 Feb • Sydney 6 Feb
Brisbane 12 Feb • Adelaide 19 Feb • Perth 21 Feb

11 - 13 March 2008
Domotex Asia/Chinafloor - Shanghai

Q. If plywood is used in the installation can mechanical anchors be used to fix the ply through the rubber matting, or will this process destroy the isolation properties of the process?

A. Embelton can supply an insulated anchor that will allow ply or battens to be fixed through the rubber matting. This reduces the costs as adhesive is not required below the ply and maintains the sound reduction properties. See the diagram on page 20.

The Building Codes of Australia Section F5 details the current requirement for residential occupied areas. In commercial installations with high impact noise, such as gym or sports floors, a professional review should be undertaken and an Acoustic Consultant should verify the specifications. *f*

Embelton has both a Registered Test Laboratory and a resident Acoustic Engineer.

Ask the Experts

Lately I have been having trouble with dust in my final coat – is there anything that I can do to eliminate this? WNL

Firstly, small amounts of contaminants in a final coat are not considered a defect, so the issue is about setting customer expectation early in the process. When you are talking your clients through the job, it is always advisable to inform them that there will be some small contaminants in the floor, but that these will wear off over time.

So how much is too much? Most people doing inspections will tell you that a floor needs to be inspected at standing height (not on hands and knees) and that it should not take place in critical light, such as direct sunlight. The allowable tolerance for contaminants in finish is not an exact science, and is normally described as "slight". As a professional, would you accept it in your own floor?

The number one cause of excessive contamination is excessive dust in the air when coating. After sanding and cutting back between coats the floor, wall, skirts or anywhere else that could be dusty should be cleaned. The floor should be vacuumed first and then tacked using a suitable cloth to pick up the fine dust that vacuuming cannot pick up. Depending on the type of coating you use, the open time could be between 1 to 5 hours, and this means the rooms must remain dust free for this period to ensure that nothing sticks to the wet finish. DW *f*

websites

www.atfa.com.au - visit the members only section for good technical info and helpful forms.

www.bom.gov.au - a great site to check both current and long term Relative Humidity (RH) for any area of Australia.

Project feature:
Big house, big family, big boards!

Wide boards are a unique look in timber flooring but really look their best in large expanses of floor space. This home in Sydney is the perfect floor plan for wide boards with 120m² of floor space in the kitchen and open plan living area alone.

Supplied and installed by ATFA member Nash Timbers, the floor is a 180mm x 20mm North Coast Blackbutt tongue and groove strip floor, secret nailed and glued to battens on a concrete slab.

The timber is sourced from ATFA member Hurford Hardwood in Lismore and comes under the eco-select brand. It is a "prestige" grade product, which includes some gum veins and the growth rings that are common in Blackbutt and emphasised in a wide board profile.

Native hardwood timber was the floor covering of choice for owners Greg and Fiona McManus with a family of four active kids (some of them gymnasts) who also needed to avoid dust and allergens for the asthmatics in the family.

"I didn't even consider tiles or stone for this space," says Fiona. "We love the warmth of timber and chose Blackbutt for its neutral colour."

The floor has been coated with a water-based finish from another ATFA member, Synteko.

"Synteko is a very good product," says David Nash of Nash Timbers. "It's much better for the environment than some other finishes on the market."

Nash Timbers specialises in wide flooring and native timbers with over 20 years in the industry.

Husband and wife team, David and Jane Nash are passionate about recycled timber and sourcing new timber from trusted sources. All mills that deal with Nash Timbers are certified to supply logs from forests that are managed sustainably by State Forests.

David was one of the first people to deal in recycled flooring. Two decades ago, he began sourcing timber from domestic demolitions and later from large industrial sites such as the old wool stores in Pyrmont, Ultimo and Darling Harbour.

The timber would be denailed and sawn into boards up to 250mm wide.

"Wide boards are not a passing fashion," says David. "They have been in high demand since I have been in the timber flooring business and they're here to stay." *f*

Project profile
Supplier and installer: Nash Timbers, Sydney phone 02 9337 6800 www.nashtimbers.com.au
Flooring producer: Hurford Hardwood, Lismore phone 02 6621 9886
Finish: Synteko, water-based satin coating phone 02 9406 8100 www.synteko.com.au
Builder: Greg McManus, Con-Struct Building phone 0418 208 053

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